(d) if, not the reasons therefor in view of the fact that the mode of direct recruitment to the post of Assistants in the Central Government as well as in the Union Territory of Delhi is the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected from Delhi Administration.

Microwave link between Bhubaneshwar to New Delhi via Cuttack

2411. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa have requested the Central Government to provide Microwave link between Bhubaneshwar to New Delhi via Cuttack so that the news clippings could be passed on to Delhi, the same day for inclusion in National News bulletins; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to distribute regional TV service in Orissa on availability of capacity in the space segment and establishment of an Uplink Terminal near Bhubaneshwar in the ground segment. This facility, when commissioned into service, is also planned to be used for feeding the news and other topical programmes from Doordarshan Kendra under implementation at Bhubaneshwar to Delhi.

T.V. film makers

2412. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of T.V. film makers, known for their independent outlook and who were blacklisted sometime back continue to be so till today;

(b) whether a number of T.V. films produced by them were shelved;

(c) what are the names of the telefilms shelved and since when together with the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is no instance where it has been decided to ban the telecast of a TV programme assigned by Doordarshan to outside producers on the ground that it is critical of the present Government. It has not, however, been possible to telecast some of these programmes on considerations of present programme requirements of Doordarshan.

Paika Mutiny

2413. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to recognise PAIKA MUTINY of 1817 in Orissa as the first independence movement; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Home Affairs is not concerned with recognition of various movements as Independence Movements. It is concerned with recognition of movements only for the purpose of grant of Freedom Fighters' Pension from Central revenues.

Setting up of FTZ in Andaman and .. ..Nicobar Islands .....

2414. SHRI VIRREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been made/received to set up FTZ in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to take advantage of the entreprenurial expertise and financial resources of the Indian community now based in Hong Kong and other countries of the Pacific Asian Rim;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider instituting such a scheme on its own?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Government are aware of the interest expressed by the Indian community in Hong Kong on this subject.

(b) and (c) Government have since decided that in view of the environmental aspects, it may not, be possible to establish an FTZ in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Rural road traffic

2415. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what contingency plans are likely to be drawn up to meet the increasing rural road traffic;

(b) whether an appropriate national plan has been drawn to meet the intra-regional road traffic arising out to boost rural traffic; if not, whether there is a plan to initiate one; and

(c) whether any blue print has been drawn up to rehabilitate distressed bridges, and development of expressway?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The schemes for development of rural road transportation are covered in the Plan schemes under road transport sector in the Five Year Plans. With a view to meet growing traffic requirements in the rural sector, fund projections for improvements in the roads have been recommended by the Working Group on Roads for the Eighth Five Year Plan. Similarly the Working Group on Road Transportation have recommended adequate provision for developmental schemes which include development of vehicle design, appropriate for operations in the rural areas, provision of regular services for passenger movement with linkages to continguous villages and market centres, encouragement for introduction of light weight passenger buses including mini-buses, midi-buses, etc.

In order to meet increasing intra-regional road traffic, National Highways and State Highways roads are required to be widened on selective basis from single lane to two lanes and from two-lanes to four lanes. In some sections, express ways would have been provided. The proposals in this regard form the part of recommendations of the Working Group Report on 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) As regards National Highways, a condition survey of all bridges has been carried out for identifying the distressed bridges. For the purpose of reconstruction and rehabilitation of such distressed bridges, a programme has been drawn-up to be implemented in a phased manner. As regards bridges on State roads, State Governments have been advised to carry out similar condition surveys and take appropriate action to repair and rehabilitate them. For express ways a study is in progress with the technical assistance of Asian Development Bank.